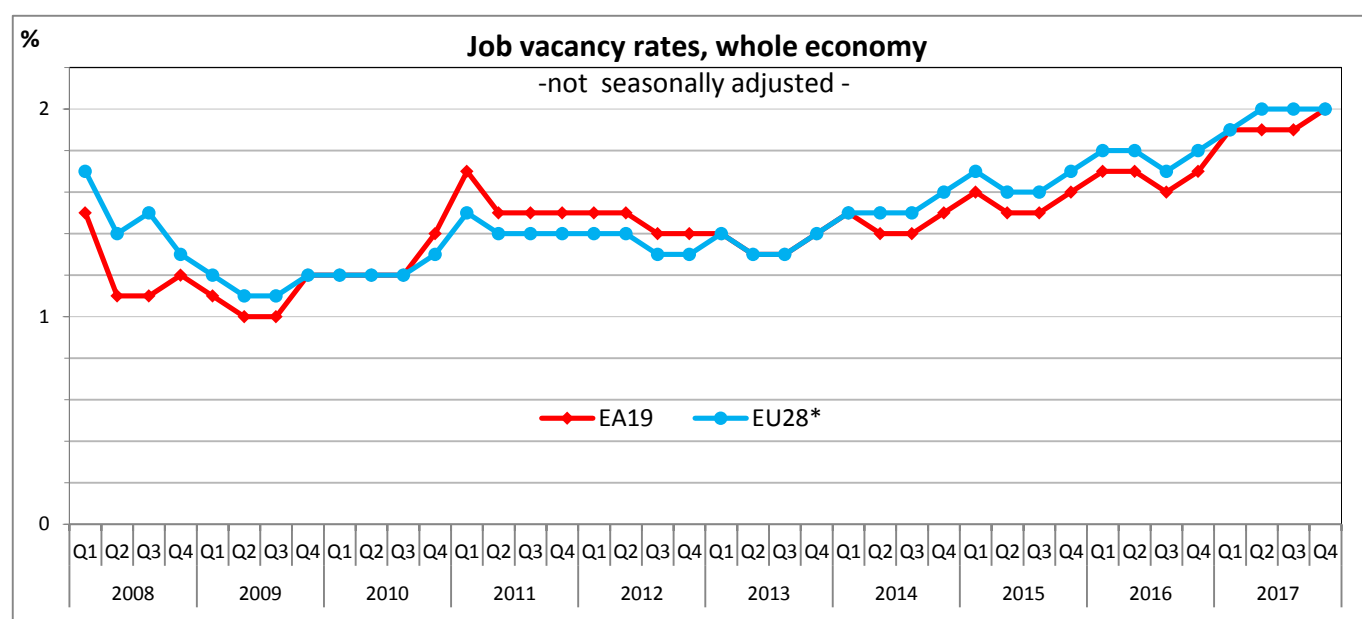


44/2018 - 16 March 2018

Fourth quarter of 2017

Job vacancy rate at 2.0% in both euro area and EU28

The job vacancy rate in the **euro area** (EA19) was 2.0% in the fourth quarter of 2017, up from 1.9% recorded in the previous quarter and from 1.7% in the fourth quarter of 2016, according to figures published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the **EU28**, the job vacancy rate was 2.0% in the fourth quarter of 2017, stable compared with the previous quarter, but up from 1.8% in the fourth quarter of 2016.



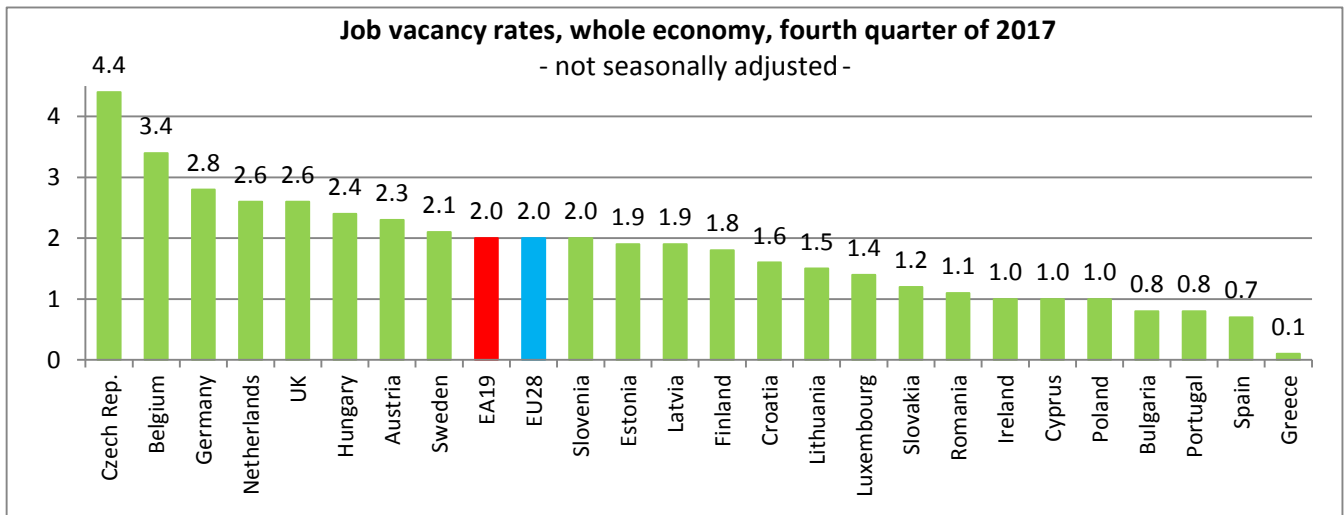
* Data for EU27 up to Q4 2009, data for EU28 from Q1 2010.

In the **euro area**, the job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2017 was 1.7% in industry and construction, and 2.3% in services. In the **EU28**, the rate was 1.8% in industry and construction, and 2.3% in services.

Member States

Among the Member States for which comparable data are available (see country notes), the highest job vacancy rates in the fourth quarter of 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (4.4%), **Belgium** (3.4%), **Germany** (2.8%), the **Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom** (both 2.6%). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in **Greece** (0.1%), **Spain** (0.7%), **Bulgaria** and **Portugal** (both 0.8%).

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year and among the Member States for which data are comparable over time (see country notes), the job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2017 rose in twenty-three Member States, remained stable in **Bulgaria** and **Spain**, but fell in **Greece** and **Romania** (both -0.2 percentage points – pp). The largest increases were registered in the **Czech Republic** (+1.4 pp), the **Netherlands** (+0.6 pp), **Belgium**, **Hungary**, **Austria** and **Finland** (all +0.5 pp).



Denmark, France, Italy and Malta: not shown as data are not strictly comparable.

Geographical information

The **euro area** (EA19) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union** (EU28) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

The **job vacancy rate** (JVR) measures the proportion of total posts that are vacant, expressed as a percentage:

$JVR = (\text{number of job vacancies}) / (\text{number of occupied posts} + \text{number of job vacancies})$.

A **job vacancy** is defined as a paid post (newly created, unoccupied or about to become vacant) for which the employer is taking active steps to find a suitable candidate from outside the enterprise concerned and is prepared to take more steps and which the employer intends to fill either immediately or in the near future. Under this definition, a job vacancy should be open to candidates from outside an enterprise. However, this does not exclude the possibility of the employer recruiting an internal candidate for the post. A vacant post that is open only to internal candidates should not be treated as a job vacancy. An occupied post is a paid post within an organisation to which an employee has been assigned.

Job vacancy rates cover NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S. This aggregate is referred to as "**Whole economy**" for the sake of simplification, even if agriculture, activities of households as employers and activities of extraterritorial organisations are excluded. NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S include the industry (B to E), construction (F) and services (G to N) sectors together with (mainly) non-market services (O to S).

The job vacancy rates for the EU and euro area aggregates are based on Member States data, including estimates for recent periods when values are not yet available. If national data are only available for a sub-population, for example excluding smaller units or some activities, this sub-population is used in the computation of the job vacancy rate for the aggregates.

Country notes:

Denmark, France, Italy and Malta: data are not strictly comparable. In France and Italy, only business units with 10 employees or more are surveyed. Moreover, in the case of public administration, education and human health (NACE Rev. 2 sections O, P and Q), public institutions are not covered. In Malta, only units with 10 employees or more are surveyed. In Denmark, only units within the business economy (NACE Rev 2 sections B to N) are surveyed.

Malta: Data are not strictly comparable over time due to the methodological changes introduced in the first quarter of 2017.

Revisions and timetable

Compared with the rates published in News Release [196/2017](#) of 18 December 2017, the job vacancy rate for the third quarter of 2017 remains unchanged in both the euro area and the EU28.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on job vacancy statistics

Eurostat [database section](#) on job vacancy statistics

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on job vacancy statistics

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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Job vacancy rates – whole economy (%)

- Not seasonally adjusted -

	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4
EA19	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
EU28	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Belgium	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.4
Bulgaria	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
Czech Republic	3.0	3.1	3.6	4.1	4.4
Germany	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
Estonia	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.9
Ireland	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
Greece	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.1
Spain	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Croatia	1.4	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.6
Cyprus	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.0
Latvia	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
Lithuania	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5
Luxembourg	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.4
Hungary	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4
Netherlands	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6
Austria	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.3
Poland	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
Portugal	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Romania	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Slovenia	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0
Slovakia	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2
Finland	1.3	2.7	1.6	1.5	1.8
Sweden	2.0	2.7	2.5	2.0	2.1
United Kingdom	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6
Norway	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0
Switzerland	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3

Job vacancy rates – restricted coverage^{*} (%)

- Not seasonally adjusted -

	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4
Denmark	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.8
France	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
Italy	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Malta[*]	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.1

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

The source dataset is available [here](#).

Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)

- Not seasonally adjusted -

	Industry and construction (NACE Rev. 2 section B to F)					Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)				
	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4
EA19	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3
EU28	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3
Belgium	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.0
Bulgaria	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5
Czech Republic	3.1	3.2	3.9	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.1
Denmark	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.8
Germany	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6
Estonia	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.1	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1
Ireland	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Greece	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.6	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.2
Spain	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
Croatia	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	2.7	2.0	1.3	1.3
Cyprus	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.1
Latvia	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7
Lithuania	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.5
Luxembourg	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9
Hungary	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.4
Netherlands	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.9
Austria	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.7	3.5	3.6	3.5
Poland	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Portugal	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Romania	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Slovenia	1.8	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.5
Slovakia	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9
Finland	1.1	3.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
Sweden	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.4	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.8
United Kingdom	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9
Norway	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3
Switzerland	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.5

Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)

- restricted coverage* -

- Not seasonally adjusted -

	Industry and construction (NACE Rev. 2 section B to F)					Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)				
	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3	2017Q4
France	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2
Italy	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.7
Malta*	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.4	0.8	2.6	2.4	3.0	1.9	1.4

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

The source dataset is available [here](#).